MORTALITY OF PHILADELPHIA FOR 1863.

REPORT

ON

METEOROLOGY AND EPIDEMICS.

READ BEFORE THE

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF PHILADELPHIA,

FEBRUARY 3, 1864.

BY

WILSON JEWELL, M.D.,

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THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF PHILADELPHIA.

THE following is my Annual Report on Meteorology and Epidemics for

the year 1863:-

The meteorology of the year will be found in the table 1, politely furnished by Prof. Kirkpatrick of the Philadelphia High School. Here we have represented the mean temperature of the year 54.13°, which is 1.55° warmer than in 1862. The highest point of heat attained was 95° on August 10th, within a half degree of the highest point in 1862, on the 7th of July. The mean daily range was 5.39°. The lowest degree was 5°, on Feb. 5th, three degrees lower than Dec. 21, 1862. The coldest day was the 4th of February.

The mean daily pressure of the atmosphere was 29.864 inches of the barometer, and the mean amount of humidity in the air was 67.2 per cent.

of saturation.

The rain and snow-fall amounted to 49.642 inches, which exceeded the rain for 1862 by 3.986 inches, and was greater in amount by 4.314 inches than the average for the last 12 years, while the number of days on which rain fell, viz., 143, was 9 more than in '62 and 15 more than the average

for twelve years.

The amount of rain that fell during the spring and summer was 28.542 inches, being 8.210 more than in 1862. While the number of days it rained amounted to 82, which exceeded the number in 1862 by 20 days. The seasons therefore have been uncommonly wet, and whatever influence they may have exerted upon the character and fatality of our diseases, the heavy rains from time to time have been useful in deluging our streets and gutters, carrying off an immense quantity of putrid offal from our neglected thoroughfares.

Latitude 390 574'N. Longitude 750 104'W. from Greenwich. Height of Barometer fount, 60 feet above mean tide in the Delaware River. A General Abstract of the Meteorological Observations made at Philadelphia during the year 1863.—By Prof. James A. Kirkpatrick.

1863.	734			Тн	Тневмометев	STER.			10 1/15				BAR	BAROMETER.					DEW POINT.	OINT,	
	1	1	RANGE.	GE.	lly,		MEANS.	. N		Fire	Topic .	RA	RANGE.	120	ME	MEANS,			MEANS.	N.	1.60
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January	61	14	47	5.60	12.90	33.95	40.95	36.64	37.18	30.571	29.127	1.444	.266	29.925	29.867	29.902	29.899	27.80	29.68	29.24	28.90
February	54	9	49	7.54	13,57	30.46	37.70	34.04	34.07	30.671	29.345	1,326	.265	30.031	29.977	30.024	30.011	24.10	25.33	25.09	24.84
March	63	15	48	6.47	13.81	32.29	40.04	28	36.35	30,384	29,422	296.	.214	29.885	29.829	29.880	29.864	25.38	25.54	26.83	25.92
April	11	30	41	5,41	14.90	43.95	54.35	47.40	48.57	30,185	29.260	.825	.164	29.788	29.752	29.808	29.782	33.55	33.94	36.72	34.74
May	06	40	09	5 43	19.15	59.32	71.76	62.64	64.57	29.975	29.295	.680	680.	29.783	29.736	29.769	29.763	20.00	49.10	52.19	50.43
June	913	55	391	5,18	16.02	82.78	74.75	06.79	69.48	29.994	29.321	.673	.083	29.743	29.712	29.756	29.737	54.22	53.94	55.13	54.43
July	88	65	23	3.22	10.81	74.40	80.24	76.32	76.99	29,988	29.524	.464	620.	29.800	29.780	29.807	29.796	66.83	66.71	67.44	60.79
August	98	58	37	3.79	16.00	74.95	85.50	78.05	79.50	30,119	29.699	.420	.100	29.878	29.850	29.868	29.865	00.99	63.00	65.00	64.67
September	83	41	42	4.22	14.65	61.57	70.68	64.70	65.65	30,312	29.281	1.031	911.	29.940	29.896	29.939	29.925	52.51	54.32	54.47	53,77
October	74	32	42	4.93	16.10	49.79	68.19	54.18	55.29	30.245	29.557	.688	.108	29.920	29.885	29.925	29,610	43.29	43.54	44.93	43.92
November	69	25	44	6.35	14.37	42.45	52.63	46.12	47.07	30.249	29.434	618.	.185	29.863	29.804	29.854	29.840	34.39	34.16	35.00	34.52
December	09	15	45	6.54	13.26	30.87	39.13	34.68	34.89	30.495	29.167	1.328	.223	29.999	29.935	29.981	29.972	23.59	25.74	25.10	24.81
Annual means .	95	0	06	5.39	14.63	49.98	59.21	53.21	54.13	30.671	29.127	1,544	761.	29.879	29.835	29.877	29.864	41.81	42.08	43.10	42.33
Winter	19	2	69	6.53	13.07	32.22	39.47	35,13	35.61	30.671	29.127	1.544	.243	29.963	29.913	29.955	29.944	26.12	27.43	27.29	26.95
Spring	06	15	7.5	5.77	15.95	45.19	55.68	48.62	49 83	30.384	29.260	1.124	154	29.818	29.772	29.819	29.803	36.31	36.19	38,58	37.03
Summer	95	52	43	4.06	14.28	11.11	80.16	74.09	75.32	30.119	29.321	.798	780.	29.807	29.781	29.810	29.789	62.35	61.22	62.62	62.00
Autuma	83	25	89	5.17	15 04	51.27	61.73	92.00	56.00	30.312	29.281	1.031	.136	29.908	29.862	29.906	29.892	43.40	44.01	44.80	44.07
For eleven years	1001	1040	106	5.55	15.14	49.71	59.90	53.14	54.25	30.704	28.884	1.820	991.	29.889	29.849	29.875	29.871		43.40		

BIRTHS.—During the year there were 15,293 births recorded in the registration office. This is an increase of 552, or 3.74 per cent. above those for 1862. Compared with the number of deaths, it shows an increase of the population of ten in every hundred; thus, the deaths amounted to 14,220, while the births were 15,293—an increase of births over the deaths of 1,073, equal to 7.54 per cent.

The accompanying table gives the total number of births during the year, with the sexes, and shows the births credited to the different months with the still-born and the twins, also the births of coloured children.

1863.		Bir	THS.	BL	ACK.	STILL	Born.	
Months.	TOTAL.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female	Male.	Female.	Twins
January	1,363	731	632	11	13	36	26	10
February	1,296	691	605	14	7	31	19	16
March	1,405	723	682	12	11	21	22	18
April	1,244	651	593	15	8	55	26	14
May	1,139	582	557	7	12	27	28	9
June	1,105	577	528	17	8	31	29	11
July	1,189	636	553	7	12	28	38	12
August	1,306	647	659	8	21	30	14	20
September	1,323	725	598	12	11	45	25	8
October	1,259	683	576	20	16	37	33	6
November	1,324	706	618	15	11	39	23	14
December	1,340	690	650	13	11	52	28	10
Total	15,293	8,042	7,251	151	141	432	311	148

The month of March yielded the greatest number of births, 1,405, and June the least, 1,105.

The male births amounted to 8,042; the female births to 7,251. An

excess of males of 791, or 10 per cent.

The still births were 743; of which 432 were males; while only 311 were females, nearly one-third less. This disproportion of the sexes in still births is not without interest. The disproportion is 4.50 per cent. greater than in 1862.

The monthly record of still-born children is not in the same ratio with the births. It will be observed that the highest number of still births was 81, in April, which furnished only 1244 births; while the lowest number in any month was in March, viz., 43, and this month gave 1405 births

By computing the number of births for each month during the past three years of the operation of the registration law, and arranging them as we have done on a former occasion, placing those months affording the highest number in the scale of births in their numerical order, and in an opposite column the corresponding months of conception, and we arrive at precisely similar results as formerly, and as shown by Dr. Emerson and M. Villermé of Paris, viz., that those months furnishing the lowest number of births correspond with the months of conception, July, August, and September, during the extreme heat of summer, as the following table will show:—

	Months.				ole Num					esponding Months f Conception.
1.	March	1	10. 5		4298					June
2.	January	1 11	1111	10.	4261		10		116	April
3.	December	11.			4046		1.07	101		March
4.	November				4008					February
5.	August	Tra cha			4001					November
	February				3998					May
	September		111.10		3990		- 1			December
	October	11.	100		3943	. /		100		January
9.	July .	1	MAI		3865		2011		TV	October
10.	April				3695					July
11.	June .				3602					September
12.	May .				3598				- •	August

According to these results fecundity is not only affected by the order of the seasons, as the extreme heat of the summer solstice, but also by endemic influences. It is well understood that during the three months, July, August, and September, our population is diminished directly by an increase of deaths, and as shown above, it may likewise be lessened through the same influence by diminishing fecundity.

This is a subject worthy of more enlarged investigation than could be

offered in this report.

The births returned of coloured children amounted to 292. This is an increase of 16.33 per cent. over those registered for 1862, but a decrease

below those for 1861 of 5.50 per cent.

The deaths of the coloured population were 767, showing a heavy percentage over the births, equal to 162 per cent. This result indicates a rapid decline, provided the returns of births are made with any degree of accuracy.

Twin births registered, amounted to 148. The highest number born in any one month was 20, in August; the lowest, in October, six. No triplets

were registered during the year.

The first ward with a population of 30,886 furnishes the greatest number of births, viz., 1,146—equal to 1 in every 27 of the population. The lowest number of births are set down to the fifth ward, viz., 371. This ward has a population of 24,792, and gives only 1 birth in every 67.

The 19th ward has a population of 38,828 souls; it is not, however, as productive as some other wards, producing only 1,122 births, or 1 in 35

of its population.

It will be observed that in all the wards except the second, third, fourth, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and twenty-first, the births exceeded the deaths; even in the seventeenth and nineteenth wards, swarming with populations, not the most favourable for health, owing to crowded and ill-ventilated dwellings, imperfect drainage, unpaved streets, and numerous sources of foul and unhealthy emanations—the births exceeded the deaths.

The 20th, 16th, 12th, 22d, and 24th wards presented the greatest contrast between the births and deaths in favour of the forces of organic life and reproduction, when compared with their mortality. These statistics are an index of the prosperity or numerical growth of these several dis-

tricts.

The daily average of births was 42. The 1st and 4th quarter of the year contributed the highest number of births, and the largest percentage; the 2d quarter the lowest, as follows:—

First Quarter, ending March 31 .	SILIN	1	4,064 =	26.57 per	cent.
Second Quarter, ending June 30	114.11		3,488 =	22.81	66
Third Quarter, ending September 30			3,818 =		46
Fourth Quarter, ending December 31			3,923 =	25.66	66
				1	
Total			15,293 =	100.00	66

MARRIAGES.—The accompanying table gives the number of marriages recorded during the year, with the ages of the parties married, and the percentage of men and women married, according to the different periods of life.

781195	ent Linn	100	N-121	10 20	AGES	OF TH	E WO	MEN.	9119	43,7	This 's	the	ge of n.
1	863.	Under 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	Age not given.	Total of t	Percentage of the Men.
	Under 20.	18	8	11								26	.51
	20 to 25.	6.54	1031	128	26				1 2 4 11	-	8	1847	36.50
	25 to 30.	244	925	388	87	6			III I		5	1655	30.71
SN.	30 to 40.	79	311	377	256	25	2				6	1056	20.86
THE MEN.	40 to 50.	9	39	85	140	68	6		7		3	350	6.91
OF	50 to 60.	2	4	7	29	38	10	2				92	1.81
AGES	60 to 70.	1000	1	1	6	5	11	1		11 771	13771	25	.49
	70 to 80.			1		1	3	1				6	.11
0 0	80 to 90.				HIVE U		1	1	1			2	.39
POS.	Age not given.	4	6						IVI (I		1105	415	112
Tot	al of the Vomen.	1010	2325	987	511	143	33	5			427	4547	
Per	centage of Women.	20.01	46.06	19.55	10.77	2.83	.65	.09	1.11			1	

There were 5474 marriages recorded during the year; an increase of 812, equal to 17.41 per cent. over those returned for 1862. This increase is an evidence of a far more strict compliance with the law of registration on the part of clergymen, rather than from an actual increase of the number of marriages solemnized. There is, however, a considerable defect in the returns made as to the relative ages of the parties wedded. The table shows that the ages of 415 of the men and 427 of the women married, equal to 9 per cent., have been omitted. This imperfection, owing in some instances to the carelessness of the officiating clergyman, and in others to a peculiar hesitancy of the persons about to be united, should not prevail in a document fraught with so great importance to the parties themselves and their heirs, in a legal point of view.

Of the parties married 1010, or 20 per cent. of the brides were under twenty years of age, while only 26, or 0.51 per cent. of the grooms were

in their minority.

The popular age for marriage appears to have been between twenty and twenty-five. Within these ages, there were 2325, or 46 per cent. of all the women, and 1847, or 36.50 per cent. of all the men married during the year. Within the period of twenty-five years of age the brides are more numerous than the grooms. Beyond this age the brides decline, while the grooms increase in numbers.

Between the ages of twenty-five and thirty, there were 1655, or 31 per

cent. of men, and 987, or 19.55 per cent. of women married.

There are only twenty-five marriages recorded between sixty and seventy, six between seventy and eighty, and two between eighty and ninety years of age.

The annexed table gives the nativity of the parties married:-

		BIRTH	-PLACE OF BR	IDES.	Total of	Percentage
N.	ATIVITIES.	United States.	Foreign.	Not given.	Grooms.	of Grooms.
ACE MS.	United States.	2753	261	25	3039	57.73
BIRTH-PLACE OF GROOMS.	Foreign.	495	1721	10	2226	42.27
BIRT OF	Not given.	22	12	175	209	
Total	of Brides.	3270	1994	210	5447	19/10/2
Perce	entage of Brides.	62.12	37.88	101/101/201		100.00

Of the number of men married, 3039, or 58 per cent. were natives of the United States; of this number, 2753 married American women; 261 married foreigners, and 25 married those whose birth-places are not designated.

The number of men of foreign birth amounted to 2226, or 42 per cent., of whom 495 married American women, and 1721 married women of foreign birth. There were only ten instances of this class in which the nativity of the women was omitted.

Of the women married, 3270, or 62 per cent. were born in the United States. Of these, 2753 married American born men, 495 foreigners, and

22 were not designated.

There were 1194 women of foreign birth, equal to 38 per cent. married. 261 married men American born, and 1721 married men of foreign birth. Twelve were not designated.

In 2753 instances, equivalent to 50 per cent., both parties were American born, and 1721, equal to 31 per cent., they were of foreign birth.

Deaths.—The following table furnishes a summary of the interments in our city for the year 1863, as registered at the health office:—

White	
Total	15,788
Males <td></td>	
Total	15,788
Male adults	
Total adults	7,338
Female children	
Total children	8,450
Total	15,788
" Stillborn	
" Old age	
Onknown causes	
External and accidental causes	
" Country	
Total from all causes	15,788

By reference to the above summary, and to the tables which have been prepared to illustrate the prominent points of interest in our city mortality, in their several aspects, it will be seen that 15,788 deaths from all causes have been registered during the year 1863.

This is the highest death rate ever returned for a single year in our city, and presents an increase over those returned for 1862 of six hundred and

ninety-one, equal to 4.57 per cent.

The whole number of deaths recorded include stillborn, old age, unknown, external and accidental causes, gunshot wounds, and deaths from the country. To arrive, however, at a more correct estimate of the true health of our city, it is proper to exclude the deaths recorded from stillborn, and those from the country, amounting to 1568, and confine the calculation to those from registered deaths in the city alone. These amount to 14,220.

If we estimate the increase of our population at three per cent. per annum, since the census of 1860, which gave us at that time 565,529, we have now a resident population, in round numbers, of 618,000 souls; this is by no means an exaggerated calculation, and is perhaps below the number for which we ought to receive credit.

From this standpoint, we have 23 deaths in every thousand of the living,

which is equal to one in every 43.45 of the population.

As in 1862, so in '63, there has been an unusual excess of deaths in the male sex, amounting to 20 per cent. The deaths of males were 8636; females, 7152; excess, 1484. This inequality will be found in the numerous deaths among returned soldiers from the armies of the Union, amounting to 893.

The mortality among children was 8450, or only 1112 above those of adults, equal to 15 per cent. This inequality, like that of last year, is far below the ordinary standard, and is owing to the increased proportion of deaths of adults, occasioned by the influx of sick soldiers into our city.

The highest mortality in any one epoch of life was 3995, those under one year. This includes the stillborn, and is equal to 25 per cent. of the registered deaths.

The most fatal period of childhood in cities is between birth and the fifth year. Beyond this age, there is a rapid falling off in deaths until the fifteenth year, when the mortality begins to increase again, as the children

approach manhood.

Out of 7981 deaths of children during the year under fifteen years of age, 3995 were in the first year; 1483 between one and two years; 1480 between two and five years; 719 between five and ten years, and 304 between ten and fifteen years. The next five years the death rate rose to 469, while in the following quinquennial period, from twenty to thirty, embracing early manhood, the deaths were nearly quadrupled, amounting to 1743.

According to these figures, it will be seen that 39 per cent. of our annual mortality was in children under five years (exclusive of stillborn). This death rate corresponds with that of the city of London (proper), according to Dr. Letheby's last report for 1862 and '63. In this report he remarks, "the proportion in the rest of London is about 44 per cent., and in England it is nearly 40." Compared with all England, therefore, and with other large cities in this country, this mortality is not excessive.

But when compared with the number of births during the year, the mortality is frightful, equal to about one death for every two children born!

This enormous excess of infant mortality should excite far greater attention from the philanthropist than is now given it. We offer no apology for the sanitary defects of our city, they are numerous, and add their full share as one of the causes for this unnecessary sacrifice of infant life; but there is another—and it is humiliating as well as discreditable to the mothers of our city to admit the fact—that the want of proper care, either through pride, ignorance, or neglect in the management of infants, is the principal

agent of our infant mortality.

The several government hospitals located in our city, together with the exposures attendant on camp life and the chances of the battle-field, have contributed to swell our mortality, and have added to the list 893 deaths. Of these, 308 were from gunshot wounds; 123 from typhoid fever; 100 from diarrhea; 57 from consumption of the lungs; 27 from smallpox; 29 from pyemia; and the remainder from chronic, scrofulous, and incidental diseases. At this point, we may, in passing, add our testimony to the great value of military hygiene. Though the statistics of the U. S army hospitals in this city are on a limited scale, still they confirm the views of experienced military surgeons abroad, and the results of investigations founded upon recent events in our own military history, that a greater number of soldiers fall victims to disease and death in consequence of unfavourable hygienic circumstances surrounding them, than from wounds inflicted in battle.

The principal number of deaths in these U. S. hospitals located in Philadelphia were among men brought from the battle-field, or from diseases contracted in camp and in barracks, and should not be charged to our city mortality. Again, it will be seen that 489, or 53 per cent. of the deaths were from preventable causes, while only 33 per cent. were from gunshot wounds; 97 were the result of accidents and constitutional causes not peculiar to a soldier's life.

The mortality from zymotic or epidemic and endemic or contagious diseases registers 3392. Of this number, 189 were brought from beyond the

limits for interment, and do not belong to our city mortality; hence, the

deaths in the city from preventable diseases have been only 3203.

Notwithstanding the general increase of deaths for the year, it will be gratifying to allude to the decline of those from zymotics, which may be held up as the index to the good or bad sanitary condition of a neighbourhood. As will be seen, they have fallen below those for 1862' to the num-

ber of 148, equal to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

With every allowance for this decline, the death rate of preventable diseases continues far beyond the standard that might be attained, if a proper attention was given by the municipal authorities to sanitary improvements. While we are unwilling to hold out the idea that our city mortality will ever compare with that which exists in rural districts, because, as has been wisely said, "a penalty must always be paid for the privilege of civilization, and for the right of partaking of the greater luxuries of the metropolis;" still, there are sanitary reforms both necessary and desirable, apart from the unwholesome influences connected with trade and manufactures, which effected, would contribute materially to lessen the waste of human life, and to improve the public health.

The condition of the streets and sewers of our city under the immediate control of the authorities, constitute the most prevalent sanitary evils, while the dwellings of those who are compelled by poverty to live in crowded, ill-ventilated and badly lighted apartments, in the purlieus of the city and in narrow confined and filthy streets and courts, are subject to unhealthy influences that invite disease, and when attacked, their already enfeebled vital powers are incapable of resisting its rapid progress, and thus

our mortality is augmented to a fearful extent.

It is in the power of the corporate authorities to correct the former evils, by the direct and frequent application of the broom and water, aided by the exercise of sanitary science. The latter, the homes of the poor, over which they have not the like power, will, when the example is offered their inmates, through clean streets and unobstructed sewers, be encouraged to improve and keep clean their miserable places of abode, and thereby check the accumulation of causes that have a depressing influence, and foster and develop endemic diseases of a low or malignant type.

The following table will furnish the diseases considered preventable, from which deaths have occurred during the year. It also presents the number and character of the deaths which have been charged to the different wards. These are the diseases supposed to have their origin in specific and local

causes.

^{1 3351,} deducting those from the country.

Zymotic, Epidemic, and Contagious Diseases for 1863.—Division 1. Showing Sex and Age.

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The figures in this table show that the deaths from zymotic diseases are to the total of deaths for the year as 20 per et., or one in every five.

A marked disproportion will be noticed in the deaths of the sexes. The males are 1856, while the females are only 1536; a difference of 320, or an increase of 20 per ct. in favour of males. This may be accounted for by the large number of deaths among soldiers who have been brought home sick, or for interment.

The deaths in the four quarters are presented in the annexed table with

the above.

The third quarter of the year, July, August, and September, embraces 1618 deaths, while the three remaining quarters amount only to 1774. This difference is owing to the mortality from certain diseases peculiar to the summer months, as cholera infantum, dysentery and diarrhosa.

The mortality among children under five years of age, from the diseases in the class zymotic, has been almost incredible, amounting to 63 per ct., and if we include those between five and ten years, it will swell the number

to 70 per ct.

The highest number of deaths from any one disease in this catalogue, was 930, cholera infantum. This destructive disease of infants shows an increase of 301 deaths over those of 1862, or 48 per ct., and was confined principally to the three summer months, July, August, and September.

This infantile disease is peculiar to large cities, and is most prevalent and fatal in those localities where exists the greatest amount of filth, squalor, over-crowding, defective ventilation, with other unwholesome in-

fluences.

A glance at the figures on the line opposite cholera infantum, under the

different wards, will strikingly exemplify this remark.

The first seven wards contributed 343 deaths, and those included from the 15th to the 20th wards gave 246, in all, 589, or 65 per ct., while the remainder 341 were scattered through the remaining twelve wards, includ-

ing those from the Almshouse.

These thirteen wards are, with scarcely an exception, the most unsanitary of all others. They contain a larger and more densely crowded population. They have a greater number of small streets, and abound in courts and alleys. A stroll for an hour on a warm summer afternoon through several of these neighbourhoods, reeking with filth and mud, sending forth an indescribable odour, and then following up the visit by entering a few of the cellars and yards of the pent up hovels, where there exist a systematic neglect of cleanliness, and an atmosphere of decomposition, and we are persuaded the visitor will return home fully convinced that we have "neither extenuated or set down aught in malice," concerning these districts of our city.

Diphtheria.—The deaths from this disease amounted to 434 against 325, during the previous year, an increase of 33 per ct. This disease appears to have been steadily on the increase, while its prevalence has not been confined to any special locality. In point of fact, those wards called rural and those classed as healthy, and enjoying the advantages of house accommodation, free circulation of air, and their residents accustomed to the comforts of an improved social condition, all of which are essential to health, have suffered in some instances beyond those where the standard of social refinement is very limited, where there is over-crowding, neglect of cleanliness, squalid wretchedness, ill-ventilated dwellings, and an atmosphere at all times loaded

with unwholesome and deadly gases. For instance, the 4th ward gave only 8 deaths, while the 8th ward furnished 21 deaths. The 14th ward gave 16, while the 17th gave only 12. The 21st and 22d wards contributed 33 deaths, while the 2d and 3d gave 36, only a fraction more. These statistics conform to the opinion elsewhere expressed and cited in a former report, that diphtheria obeys no climatic laws, and is independent of all atmospheric conditions. We are quite certain that neither the heat of summer nor the cold of winter has exerted any influence in abating its destructive attacks.

Typhoid fever caused 487 deaths. Of this number 74 were brought from beyond the city for interment, and if we deduct the 123 deaths that are charged to the U.S. soldiers, it will then give us only 364 deaths as properly belonging to our city mortality. These figures, therefore, mark a slight decline from those of 1862, making a similar deduction of the deaths of soldiers for that year.

Diarrhea. - Three hundred and fifteen deaths were caused by diarrhea. Of this number, 100 are charged to the soldiers. By deducting these, as many of them died abroad and were brought here for interment, while others contracted their disease in camps, and were ordered to the U. S. hospitals located here, they do not properly belong to our city mortality, and should be deducted. By this arrangement, we reduce the deaths from diarrheea to 215, a fraction less than those for the previous year.

Hooping-cough fell off 62 per ct., that is, from 208 in 1862, to 78 in '63.

Measles 24 per ct.

Smallpox 35 per ct., or from 264 to 171. Here again we desire to direct attention to the great number of deaths among children from smallpox compared with those in adults, as a proof of the defective character of the existing ordinance for public vaccination, and the necessity for a compulsory law in order to secure our city and even our State from the frequent ravages of this loathsome disease.

The month of February in this year was ushered in by the appearance of an unusual disease, of an eruptive form; its type asthenic; in many cases defying all treatment; running its course rapidly to a fatal termination, within from a few hours to two and five days, and if we can form any correct idea from the deaths reported, confining itself to certain localities in a densely populated district of the city, and to several built up portions of

the rural wards.

In the absence of all correct diagnosis and the want of a proper nomenclature, it is somewhat difficult to secure the true number of deaths from this strange disease. We are very sure that the generic term "spotted," as given in the record, does not designate all of them. A variety of terms have been assumed, in the certificates of death, according to the views entertained of its diagnostic relations, and the observations and experience of those several practitioners who have been somewhat familiar with its advent and stay among us.

By some, it has been called spotted, and by others malignant, petechial, congestive, and typhus fevers. One practitioner certified to all his cases of death, under the very general term fever, for the want of a more distinct name. Nor is it less certain that many of the fatal cases were treated as congestion, as well as inflammation of the meninges of the brain, and re-

corded cerebro-spinal meningitis.

Of the correctness of a single observation, however, as already intimated, and drawn from a careful analysis of the death register, and from reliable information otherwise secured, we are certain, viz., that this unusual visitor, whatever be its etiology, pathology, or distinguishing title, has confined its ravages chiefly to the northeastern section of the city, embracing the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th wards, having a front either directly or indirectly through the Cohocksink Creek, on the Delaware River. The built up portion of the 23d ward, bounded on the south, east, and west, by the Frankford Creek; together with that densely inhabited section of the 21st ward, on its western slope, lying along the margin of the Schuylkill River.

Out of the 256 deaths recorded from those fevers above named, 155, or 61 per ct, are credited to the localities we have designated as having suffered peculiarly from this uncommon and alarming disease. We think, therefore, there is legitimate ground for venturing the opinion that not less than 150 deaths have occurred during the year from "spotted fever," or cerebro-

spinal meningitis.

Almost simultaneous with the advent of spotted fever in our city, an epidemic catarrh or influenza made its appearance and spread itself very generally throughout the community. This disease was not confined to any particular period of life, nor to any special locality. In its duration in those cases that were uncomplicated and occurring in healthy subjects, it seldom was prolonged over a week, was far more severe on the nervous system than the ordinary catarrhal affections, but by no means fatal in character.

In children especially, this disease was accompanied with an eruption in many cases that resembled measles, and in those instances in which the catarrhal fever was predominant, this eruption was not readily distinguished from that exanthem. This efflorescence would last for a day or two, and gradually fade. In several families attended by the writer, no other symptom invited attention either from the parent or physician. Urticaria also, or at least an eruption perfect in its resemblance, was occasionally witnessed as a concomitant of this epidemic.

For a very full and interesting account of this disease, we would refer the College to a paper by Dr. Levick, one of its fellows, in the Jan. No. of

the Am. Journ. of Med. Sciences.

How far there is a parallelism between this epidemic and the malignant form of fevers which has prevailed, further investigations may determine. Surely, the testimony brought forward by Dr. Levick, describing the complications of former epidemic influenzas as they have occurred at home and abroad, goes far towards establishing a close analogy between the two diseases which have been prominently associated, and travelling side by side in our city during the year.

In the reports for 1861 and '62 to the College, there are tables in which are recorded the deaths in the different wards of the city from zymotic or epidemic diseases. Below, will be found a continuation of these tables, in which will be seen the wards where the deaths have been most prevalent

for three consecutive years.

WARDS.	Population	Deaths i	rom Zymotic l	Diseases.	Total for
	last census.	1861.	1862.	1863.	three years
First	30,886	247	238	231	716
Second	29,123	237	216	164	617
Third	19,929	99	112	107	218
Fourth	23,461	171	125	130	426
Fifth	24,792	120	92	88	300
Sixth	14,882	58	68	71	197
Seventh	31,267	184	219	181	584
Eighth	27,770	71	93	90	254
Ninth	17,196	66	61	76	203
Tenth	21,849	101	132	110	243
Eleventh	16,681	151	86	72	309
Twelfth	16,681	125	107	70	302
Thirteenth	20,045	109	81	76	266
Fourteenth	24,258	110	100	97	307
Fifteenth	32,091	203	181	235	619
Sixteenth	20,067	183	122	102	407
Seventeenth	23,264	337	141	127	605
Eighteenth	20,441	233	125	99	457
Nineteenth	38,828	347	271	232	850
Twentieth	29,963	270	192	169	631
Twenty-first	17,159	108	72	187	367
Twenty-second .	17,173	58	71	98	227
Twenty-third .	23,985	114	85	83	282
Twenty-fourth .	23,738	114	40	228	382
Twenty-fifth			221	71	292
Unknown		•••	25	9	34
Almshouse		•••			
From the country		•••			
Total population Total deaths in ea Total for three year		4,064	4,506	10,960	3,392

According to the above figures, there has been an annual decline of deaths from those diseases usually called preventable. For instance, the deaths in 1863 were 16.50 per ct. less than in 1861. This gives a favour-

able indication as to the sanitary condition of the city.

The 1st, 2d, 4th, 7th, 15th, 17th, 19th and 20th wards, show a very heavy mortality from epidemic diseases. During the three years they have each been charged with over five hundred deaths, and the 19th, which has a population of about 38,828, contributed 850 deaths, or 1 in every 45. The 17th, with a population of 23,264, gave 1 death in every 38. The 1st, with a population of 30,886, gave 1 in 43.

These eight wards seem to maintain their reputation as the most un-

healthy in the city.

MORTALITY IN WARDS.—The wards that have furnished the greatest number of deaths according to their population are the following in the numerical order which we have placed them, viz., the 1st, 24th, 15th, 4th, 2d, 7th, 3d, 20th, 19th, 21st, and 17th.

The 23d, 8th, 12th, and 13th wards gave the smallest number of deaths

according to their population.

In all the wards of the city the populations have increased. Some allowance therefore must be made for the above calculations.

DEATHS FROM SPORADIC CAUSES.—In the general table of interments in this city for the year 1863, accompanying this report, it will be seen that the deaths from all causes, except those from zymotic diseases which we have already enumerated, numbering 3,392, have amounted to 10,828. Of these deaths,

Consumption of the Lungs contributed the largest number, amounting to 1,955, nearly 14 per cent. of the total of deaths, and the highest mortality from this disease ever recorded for Philadelphia, being an increase of six over those for 1862.

The number of deaths in each month were as follows:-

Janua	ry .		164	July .		171
Febru	ary .		164	August .		155
March			160	September		156
April			209	October .		150
May			146	November		162
June			121	December		197

The highest number in any one month was 209, in April. The lowest in June, 121.

The deaths among males exceeded those of females by 23. The two decennial periods between 20 and 40 contributed 974 deaths, equal to 50 per cent.

The deaths among people of colour amounted to 161, or 8 per cent. The mortality from this disease is on the increase with the coloured population.

Thirty-five per cent. of the deaths recorded are charged to our foreign population, fifty-seven per cent. to those of American birth, seven per cent. not designated.

The average monthly mortality was 163, and for every day there were 5 deaths.

Still-Born.—From this cause assigned for death there are 743 returns. This is equal to about five per cent. of all the deaths. An improvement in this classification is much needed. How many of the "still-borns" were the result of design, malpractice, ignorance, neglect, carelessness, or scientific destruction of life at the time of, or during the process of labour, is a question of importance for solution. Were all the causes we have suggested for the deaths of new-born infants, to be assigned, when they are rightfully entitled to the credit of the death, the name "still-born" would hardly find a place in the catalogue. In a sanitary estimate they should always be deducted.

Inflammation of the Lungs.—Deaths from this disease occurred in 743 instances. This is a winter disease, and while it is not confined to children, but may attack at all ages, nevertheless 276 of the deaths, equal to thirty-seven per cent., are placed to the account of children under five years of age. Many of these deaths in young children are not only the result of neglected bronchial catarrhs, but complications with measles, hooping-cough, and scarlatina. Strictly classified, they should be assigned to these several headings.

Debility.—Under this very common title there are set down 926 deaths. Of these, 356 were under one year of age. It is very doubtful whether the deaths beyond the first year of life belong properly to debility alone. By a more careful diagnosis their true cause, a consequence of disease, would have been detected, and another name given to the remaining 570 deaths.

Marasmus gives 606 deaths. Of this number, 551 were among minors.

and of these, 365 were under one year of age. This record is less than that for 1862, by 37 deaths.

CROUP, a disease peculiar to childhood, furnishes 444 deaths. Of these 335 took place between the first and fifth year, and this is the period

when children are most susceptible to an attack.

The excess of male deaths in the record, 47 over those in the female, equal to $23\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., goes to confirm the opinion so frequently referred to, that boys are more subject to croup than girls. This is no doubt the case, and is owing to their more frequent exposure to sudden transitions of temperature.

Conversions.—Another somewhat obscure name, to which have been ascribed 681 deaths. Of these, 628 are charged to children, many of which cases of convulsions were, in all probability, the mere forerunners of death from attacks of disease under which the children had been labouring, and

to which cause the death should have been ascribed.

Congestion of the Brain gives 421 deaths; DISEASE OF THE HEART, 305; DISEASE OF THE STOMACH AND BOWELS, 267; APOPLEXY, 194; DROPSY, 225; OLD AGE, 234; and Gunshot Wounds, 310. Of these wounds 308 were in soldiers, and having been received in the field, should

not by right be calculated in our mortality.

In closing this report we would call the attention of the College to the following remarks contained in the report of the registration department of the Board of Health of our city, with reference to the use of a more correct and plainer terminology for diseases by physicians, when making their returns of deaths to that office. If the hints contained therein do not apply to the fellows of the College, they may be suggestive to others into whose hands this report will fall.

"In the foregoing table, presenting the total mortality of the year, much looseness of language has occurred in the naming of the various diseases, by those whose duty it is to make returns of deaths. Nor is it alone in the carelessness or tautology of names applied that we would complain, but of the obscure or ambiguous, and in numerous instances obsolete terms that are used to express some of those diseases that terminate in death almost every week, and are known by familiar titles to the reader of the mortality returns."

"If the profession would confine itself to a nomenclature of plain English terms, or even adopt, for general use, the classification of diseases and the nomenclature as approved by the National Medical Convention in 1847, when it met in this city, much trouble and time would be spared this department, and we should not be compelled to disfigure our public record with such terms as 'Spanemia,' 'Helminthiasis,' 'Vulnus Sclopetarium,' 'Born too soon,' 'Nably Information,' 'Black Small Pox,' 'Pulmonary decline,' 'Miscarriage,' a child; 'Still-born,' a child two years old; 'Chlorosis,' a boy six years old; 'Pains,' 'Frosted Feet,' and many others equally obsolete and ridiculous, which certainly cannot elevate the standard qualifications of the medical profession in our city.

"It is earnestly to be desired, therefore, that measures may be taken either by the Board of Health or the physicians of Philadelphia, to correct an evil which is increasing every year, and to secure for the future a more uniform and less complicated nomenclature, for all practical purposes, than the one now employed by those making returns of deaths to this office."

Interments in the City for the Fear 1863.

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* Deaths not properly chargeable to the city.

† Included in this amount (4,220) are the deaths from all the U. S. Hospitals located in our city.